TL1445-8

ALLOW ME AT THE OUTSET TO PAY TRIBUTE ONCE AGAIN TO THIS COMMITTEE FOR ITS IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF SERVICES RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF COLONIAL PEOPLES AND TERRITORIES.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL REMAIN IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDISSOLUBLY LINKED TO ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE FEATURES OF THIS ORGANIZATION: ITS CONTRIBUTION FOR THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS WHICH LEAD THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF COLONIES TO FREEDOM AFTER WORLD WAR II.

AT A TIME IN WHICH MOST OF THIS TASK IS ALREADY COMPLETED, WHEN NAMÍBIA, THE LAST OF THE "LARGE" COLONIAL TERRITORIES, SEEMS SO CLOSE TO ATTAIN ITS LONG AWAITED INDEPENDENCE, WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE HAS TO CONTINUE, SINCE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND FUNDAMENTAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DECOLONIZATION ARE STILL TO BE FULFILLED IN WHAT REGARDS SOME SMALL TERRITORIES AND PEOPLES, WHOSE RIGHTS AND LEGITIME ASPIRATIONS CANNOT BE IGNORED JUST BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE AND REMOTENESS, OR IN DIFÍRENCE TO THE AMBITIONS AND THE EXPANSIONIST AIMS OF OTHERWISE "VIRTUOUS" MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN

MY DELEGATION IS ADDRESSING YOU, AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN THE PAST, AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER OF ONE OF THO

SE SMALL NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, WHOSE PEOPLE IS STILL AWAITING POR THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS TO WHICH IT IS ENTITLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER, WITH RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 1541 (XV), AND WITH OTHER SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AS WELL.

SINCE THE LAST TIME WE TOOK THE FLOOR BEFORE YOU, IN AUGUST 1988, ONE HAS TO ADMIT THAT, THOUGH SOME POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC ACTION WAS UNDERTAKEN DURING THIS PERIOD, THE SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY HAS REMAINED BASICALLY THE SAME, WITH THE PERSISTENCE OF ITS ILLEGAL OCCUPATION AND DENIAL OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE EAST-TIMORESE.

MR. CHAIRMAN

REFFERRING NOW TO THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR, I WOULD START WITH WHAT WE MAY CALL, SOMEHOW OPTIMISTICALLY, AS THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE PICTURE: THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN INDONÉSIA AND PORTUGAL UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

AS YOU WILL RECALL, THE TWO LAST PROGRESS-REPORTS PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MENTIONNED THE FACT THAT A VISIT BY A PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO EAST TIMOR WAS ENVISAGED, WITH THE MANDATE OF OBTAINING FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY.

AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE TWO SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS TOOK PLACE, ONE CONVEYING THE INVITATION AND THE OTHER GIVING A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO IT, PROVIDED THE TWO SIDES COULD AGREE ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, MODALITIES AND TIMING NECESSARY FOR THE VISIT TO BE REALIZED:

WITH THIS PURPOSE, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND WITH THE MOST VALUABLE ASSISTANCE OF UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL RAFFEUDIN AHMED AND HIS STAFF, TO WHOM WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS HERE ALL OUR APPRECIATION — THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF INDONESIA AND PORTUGAL HAVE ALREADY MET THREE TIMES SINCE LAST MAY, AND A NEW ROUND OF TALKS IS ENVISAGED TO BE HELD SOON.

IN ACCEPTING, IN PRINCIPLE, THE INVITATION ADDRESSED TO IT, THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT — AS REFLECTED IN THE LETTER I HAVE JUST MENTIONNED ABOVE — HAD IN MIND THE OBJECTIVE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SEARCH OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT TO THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR, THUS COLLABORATING WITH THE MEDIATION EFFORTS CARRIED OUT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE FULFILLEMENT OF THE MANDATE ENTTRRUSTED TO HIM BY UNGA RESOLUTION 37/30.

THIS ACCEPTANCE — TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PORTUGUESE POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE QUESTION — CANNOT BUT BE DEEMED AS AN EXCEPTIONAL ACT OF GOOD-WILL, UNDERTAKEN IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND OPENED SPIRIT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISH ALLWAYS REITERATED BY PORTUGAL TO RESORT TO DIALOGUE TO EXPLOIT ALL THE POSSIBLE WAYS FOR SETTLING THIS ISSUE.

WE HOPE THAT THIS ATTITUDE WILL BE MET BY THE OTHER SIDE WITH THE SAME CONSTRUCTIVE AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH, THUS ENABLING US TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE NATURALLY EMERGED DURING THE FIRST ROUNDS OF THE ONGOING TALKS.

HAVING IN MIND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ENVISAGED VISIT, WE ARE SURE YOU WILL CONCUR WITH ME THAT THE LATTER'S SERIOUSNESS AND CREDIBILITY WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO SERVE THEM. BROAD AND EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH DIFFERENT SEGMENTS AND SENSIBILITIES OF THE POPULATION, WITHOUT LIMITATIONS OR CONSTRAINTS, WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO A COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING CONDITIONS IN EAST-TIMOR.

THE FACT OF THE INVITATION HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED, THOUGH ONLY IN PRINCIPLE, AND THE /EVENTUALITY OF THE VISIT'S REALIZATION/ CAN, IN NO WAY, AS IT MAY BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD, BE CONSTRUED AS REPRESENTING A CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF PORTUGAL CONCERNING BOTH THE QUESTION OF EAST-TIMOR AND THE STATUTE OF THE TERRITORY.

WE REITERATE OUR COMMITMENT TO WORK POSITIVELY AND IN GOOD-FAITH FOR THE SUCESS OF THIS EXERCICE. WE APPEAL TO THE OTHER SIDE TO PERSEVERE LIKEWISE SO THAT AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO THE PURSUANCE OF THE SEARCH FOR A SUBSTANTIVE SETTLEMENT FOR THIS LONG-PROTRACTED QUESTION BE CREATED.

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MR. CHAIRMAN

IT THIS WAS WHAT WE TERMED "THE BRIGHT SIDE" OF THE PICTURE", UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOW TO REVERT TO ITS "DARK SIDE".

WE HAVE ALL LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO WHAT HAS BEEN SAID HERE BY THE DISTINGUISHED PETITIONNERS THAT HAVE JUST TAKEN THE FLOOR.

IT IS BOTH SAD AND DISTURBING TO ACKNOWLEDGE AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT, ACCORDING TO ALL THE REPORTS THAT HAVE REACHED US LATELY, THE OVERALL SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR, IN TERMS OF DISREGARD FOR ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, HAS BEEN DETERIORATING SINCE LATE 1988. INFORMATIONS COMING FROM DIFFERENT QUARTERS, HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, REFUGEES AND RESIDENTS AND, AS YOU MAY RECALL, THE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH AS WELL, CONVERGE IN DENUNCIATING A NEW WAVE OF DETENTIONS, ILL-TREATMENTS, AND EVEN DISAPPEARANCES AND KILLINGS OF INDIVIDUALS. THESE FACTS, REPORTEDLY INTENSIFIED SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR, HAVE, TOGETHER WITH THE CONTINUATION OF ARMED CLASHES BETWEEN THE INDONESIAN ARMY AND THOSE RESISTING ITS RULE, CREATED A WIDESPREAD FEELING OF FEAR AND INSECURITY.

WE FEEL COMPELLED TO CALL THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION TO THE FORESAID AND TO APPEAL TO THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE AND PUT IMMEDIATELY AN END TO ALL KIND OF ABUSES, ON WHICH THE AVAILABLE REPORTS ARE UNFORTUNATELY TOO COINCIDENT TO BE TREATED AS MERE RUMORS OR BASELESS ALLEGATIONS.

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NEEDLESS TO SAY WE CONSIDER THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS VERY NEGATIVELY AFFECTING THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE DIALOGUE WE HAVE RESUMED SO RECENTLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

SINCE WE MET LAST YEAR ON EAST TIMOR, THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF NUMEROUS REFERENCES, APPEALS AND RESOLUTIONS, COMING FROM INTERNATIONAL "FORA", GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, VOICING THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION THEREIN PREVAILING AND STRESSING THE NEED TO FIND A JUST SETTLEMENT TO IT THROUGH DIALOGUE AND CONCERTATION, WITH FULL RESPECT OF THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT IN THIS RESPECT THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (IN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 1988, AND IN MAY 1989) AND BY THE EEC/ACP ASSEMBLY (OCTOBER 1988). THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, INSERTED A PARAGRAPH ON EAST TIMOR IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS' MEETING, IN NOVEMBER 1988.

ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THROUGH THE STATEMENTS DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENCY ON THEIR BEHALF, REFERRED JOINTLY TO THIS ISSUE BEFORE THE UNGA PLENARY, THE UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE, AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, IN THE LINE OF THEIR COMMONLY AGREED POSITION ADOPTED IN APRIL 1988.

SPECIAL MENTION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE TO THE LETTERS ADDRESSED AGAIN, IN THE FALL 1988 AND IN JUNE 1989, TO THE ADMI-

NISTRATION BY A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN DRAWING ITS ATTENTION TO RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, BOTH FROM THE POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN PERSPECTIVES.

LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST, I WOULD REFER IN PARTICULAR TO THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN 6 FEBRUARY 1989, BY THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF DILI ASKING THAT A REFERENDUM BE PROMOTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THE WILL OF THE EAST-TIMORESE ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE.

MR. CHAIRMAN

AS MY DELEGATION HAS REPEATEDLY SAID, PORTUGAL DOES NOT HAVE ANY CLAIM TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TERRITORY OF EAST TIMOR. WE ARE ENGAGED, AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, TO CONTRIBUTE IN THE LARGEST POSSIBLE EXTENT TO BRING ABOUT ITS DECOLONIZATION PROCESS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, ENSURING NAMELY THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND IDENTITY OF ITS POPULATION.

AS OUR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD THE OCCASION TO STATE BEFORE THE PLENARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON OCTOBER 3, 1988:

"PORTUGAL WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO FIND THROUGH DIALOGUE A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO COLABORATE WITH

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WHOSE EFFORTS OF MEDIATION I ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE. IT IS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT AND HAVING IN MIND PRIMARILY THE RESPECT FOR THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE EAST TIMOR PEOPLE THAT WE ENVISAGE THE CONTINUATION OF THIS MEDIATION PROCESS. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT, ON THE PART OF INDONESIA, THAT SPIRIT WILL ALSO PREVAIL."